

**Dr. William S. Stokes**

Director, NICEATM (MD EC-17)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

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Dear Dr. Stokes:

PLEASE DISCONTINUE ANIMAL TESTING!!!!!! FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. NIEHS should adopt the new non-animal test methods IMMEDIATELY. The non-animal test methods have been considered for almost 20 years, and animals should not continue to suffer and die because of bureaucratic inertia.
2. NIEHS recommends using the non-animal method to set the starting dose for further animal- poisoning tests. Government agencies should use in vitro cell culture tests to COMPLETELY REPLACE the use of animals in lethal dose tests.
3. At a minimum, ALL government agencies that currently require the acute animal-poisoning studies should IMMEDIATELY incorporate the in vitro cell culture method as a transitional means of reducing the number of animals killed and should fully support the use of this method as an eventual REPLACEMENT for lethal-dose poisoning studies. In particular, the EPA must immediately incorporate the non-animal cell culture method into its HPV chemical program, **as promised in its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community.**

Sincerely, D Eure